

ORIGINAL

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TSIN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

JASON E. BENSON,

Plaintiff

v.

WILLIAM G. ELLIEN, M.D., et al.,

Defendant

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:CV-00-1229

(Judge Caldwell)

(Magistrate Judge Blewitt)

(JURY TRIAL DEMANDED)

FILED  
SCRANTON

JUL 30 2001

MOTION OF PLAINTIFF, JASON E. BENSON'S  
OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT WILLIAM G. ELLIEN'S  
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO DEPOSE PLAINTIFF

PER

DEPUTY CLERK

NOW COME the plaintiff Jason E. Benson, respectfully submitting a motion in opposition to defendant Ellien's motion to depose him. The defendant Ellien has failed to remind the Court that this is his second (2nd) motion to depose plaintiff.

The first motion to depose plaintiff was granted by this Court on January 8th 2001; the plaintiff did not oppose that deposition as a matter of fact, he welcomed it and waited patiently. However, counsel for def., Ellien began by rescheduling the deposition twice in January, and exceeded the Court's thirty (30) day time limit. Counsel supplied plaintiff with numerous boilerplate excuses, and in one instance, the official's of this prison disallowed the deposition because there was not enough room in the institution.

Soon thereafter, plaintiff was given another date for the deposition: February 22, 2001, which was also cancelled and rescheduled for March 15, 2001. Not only has def., Ellien fail to have the deposition within this Court's timelimit, he believes that it's fair to try again one hundred and ninety eight (198) days later.

The def., Ellien in seeking discovery has had ample opportunity by discovery in this action to obtain the information sought, albeit, Ellien has disregarded the fact that the plaintiff was at all times available and willing to answer interrogatories and admissions. Furthermore, Ellien has the audacity to ask the Court if "...the Court pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a) permit a defendant to depose and inmate plaintiff?" Plaintiff's suggested answer: ordinarily, Yes, but in the instant matter No.

Now, def., Ellien is attempting circumvent the Court's acumen by stating he "...needs the approval of the court before taking the deposition of Benson. In order to defend himself and to determine the basis of Benson's claim against him,...Without it Benson lacks the ability to prepare his defense and to determine whether or not a motion for summary judgment is appropriate..." Such prevaricating is totally uncalled for. First of all, this Court gave Ellien the opportunity to depose plaintiff over six (6) months ago, to no avail and certainly not by the fault of plaintiff; Second, this Court has already determined the basis of plaintiff's claims against him, e.g., "However, on page five (5), ¶A6 of the Amended Complaint, the plaintiff specifically alleges that '[t]he actions of defendant Dr. William Ellien in prescribing the drug Tofranil known to decrease the seizure threshold, with aforeknowledge that plaintiff was epileptic and had been abruptly withdrawn from his anti-seizure medications and the seizure risks associated with the withdrawal of said medication and the addition of the drug Tofranil he prescribed constitutes deliberate indifference to the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Clearly, such allegations are sufficient to state a claim of deliberate indifference

to a serious medical need under the Eighth Amendment." See Report and Recommendation of the Honorable Thomas M. Blewitt, U.S.M.J., pages 8 and 9.

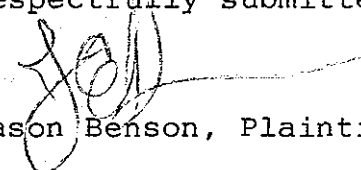
And third, to determine whether a summary judgment is appropriate, is unexceptable. In early March, 2001, plaintiff sent def., Ellien's attorney's a DC-ADM 003 form, titled "Authorization for Release of Information" which would allow counsel to receive plaintiff's medical file and submit a copy to plaintiff. But, counsel concocts an almost believable story, e.g., "As such, our client does not have the authority, legal or otherwise, to produce for you a copy of your medical file. Any such request for your medical records file must be made to the Department of Corrections, 'pursuant to their policies and procedures' applicable to the provision of such records to inmates. We are not able to fulfill this request." See exhibit "A".

In April, 2001, the plaintiff submitted another form to Ellien's counsel and waited for a reply. On May 15, 2001, plaintiff wrote the institutions Correctional Health Care Administrator Mr. George Weaver, about the situation and found-out that Ellien's attorney's did not even try to ascertain the records. See exhibit "B". Despite the fact that the form that was sent to them was pursuant to the D.O.C's policies and procedures. See exhibit "C". Unfortunately, this isn't the first time plaintiff has experienced Ellien's evasiveness, see the plaintiff's Motion for <sup>Order</sup> Compelling Disclosure or Discovery and for Expenses and Sanctions, submitted to the Court on May 24th 2001; and plaintiff incorporates the above motion as if set forth herein in full.

In conclusion, the plaintiff respectfully request that this Honorable court see Ellien's request for leave to depose this plaintiff for what it really is, an attempt at prolonging their evasive discovery tactics and seeking a chance to poke, prod, or try to make the plaintiff so upset, that he'll forget his civility.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff Jason E. Benson, respectfully requests that this Honorable Court deny defendant William Ellien's second motion to depose plaintiff and order Ellien to turn over the discovery plaintiff requested and order a sanctions in the amount of \$500.00.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jason Benson, Plaintiff

Date: July 26, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jason Benson, plaintiff do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served via First Class mail to the following:

Alan Gold, Esquire  
Monaghan & Gold  
7837 Old York Road  
Elkins Park, PA 19027

By:

Jason Benson, Plaintiff  
DS-6483, SCI-SM  
1120 Pike Street  
P.O. Box 999, Huntingdon, PA  
16652



**Monaghan & Gold P.C.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Eric B. Greenberg\*  
Leslie L. Gallagher\*  
\*Also member of New Jersey bar

Of Counsel  
Barbara Malett Weitz  
Alan L. Butkovitz  
Steven M. Zelitch

March 30, 2001

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN  
RECEIPT REQUESTED  
Z 290 205 464**

Jason E. Benson, #DS-6483  
SCI - Smithfield  
1120 Pike Street  
P.O. Box 999  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Re: **Benson v. Ellien, et al.**  
**U.S.D.C., Middle District of PA., No. 1:00-CV-1229**  
**Our File No.: 076-1441**

Dear Mr. Benson:

Enclosed you will find responses and objections to your Request for Admissions and "Interrogatories and Request for Production of Documents" on behalf of our client, Dr. Ellien, in regard to the above-captioned matter. Although you termed the Interrogatories as including document requests, with the exception of Interrogatory No. 5, you do not request any documents.

In regard to your letter of March 23, 2001, you refer to self-executing disclosures pursuant to Rule 26. First, I would point out, that you have failed to submit any such disclosures as of this time. Second, pursuant to our reading of the Court's Amended Standing Practice Order, applicable to pro se inmate litigation, it is our position that self-executing disclosures are not applicable to this action. In any event, our Motion to Dismiss is pending, and such disclosures we believe would not be appropriate prior to the motion's determination.

In your letter, you request that we provide you with "a complete copy of my medical records." Please be advised, that our client, Dr. Ellien, is not and has never been the custodian of your medical records and, while he, as any other of your medical providers has access to your records for the purpose of providing treatment, the records are and remain the property of the Department of Corrections. As such, our client does not have the authority, legal or otherwise,

Monaghan & Gold P.C.  
Attorneys At Law

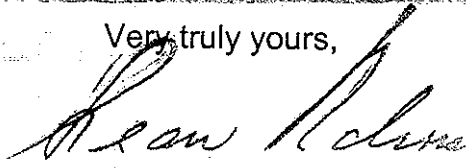
Jason E. Benson, #DS-6483  
March 30, 2001  
Page 2

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to produce for you a copy of your medical records file. Any such request for your medical records file must be made to the Department of Corrections, pursuant to their policies and procedures applicable to the provision of such records to inmates. We are not able to fulfill this request.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,



ALAN S. GOLD  
SEAN ROBINS

ASG/SR:js  
Enclosures

CA "B"

DC-135A

## INMATE'S REQUEST TO STAFF MEMBER

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## INSTRUCTIONS

Complete Items Number 1-7. If you follow instructions in preparing your request, it can be disposed of more promptly and intelligently.

1. TO: (NAME AND TITLE OF OFFICER)

Mr. George Weaver, C.H.C.A.

2. DATE

MAY 15, 2001

3. BY: (INSTITUTIONAL NAME AND NUMBER)

Mr. JASON BENSON DS-6483

4. COUNSELOR'S NAME

5. WORK ASSIGNMENT

6. QUARTERS ASSIGNMENT

CA-8

7. SUBJECT: STATE COMPLETELY BUT BRIEFLY THE PROBLEM ON WHICH YOU DESIRE ASSISTANCE. GIVE DETAILS.

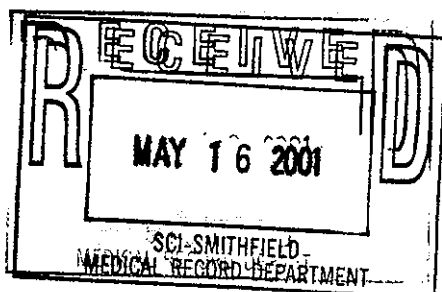
Mr. Weaver: On April 23, 2001 I submitted A DC-ADM 003, And/or DC-108 for the release of my medical/mental Health Records, to ALAN S. Gold, Esquire. It is now my understanding that my records will not be released to him. I do not understand what the problem is, I filled out the correct forms And had A witness' signature. Can you explain to me, why the Attorney (Mr. Gold) cannot secure A complete copy of my records, especially when I submitted the proper paperwork. I appreciate your time, patience, And consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jason Benson

8. DISPOSITION: (DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)

As of this date, May 16, 2001, I have not received a request from your attorney regarding copies of your medical record. You may want to contact him to see who he sent the release forms to.

☐ TO DC-14 CAR ONLY☐ TO DC-14 CAR AND DC-15 IRS

STAFF MEMBER

H. H. Hine, RHIT

George Weaver, C.H.C.A.

DATE

5/16/01

## DC-ADM 003, Release of Information Policy

Attachment

DC-108

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION<sup>1</sup>  
(THE EMPLOYEE/INMATE SHALL CHECK AND INITIAL ALL BOXES THAT APPLY)**

Medical/ Dental Records	Mental Health Records	Drug & Alcohol Treatment Records	HIV Information	Records (General)
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I, the undersigned, hereby give my consent for:  
(name and address of facility)

To release information to:  
(name and address of requester)

I hereby authorize the above named source to release or disclose information related to the above referenced records/information to the requester during the period beginning \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_\_\_. The information being requested is: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorization for disclosure is being given for the purpose of: \_\_\_\_\_

Disclosure of medical/dental information may contain all aspects of my treatment and hospitalization, including psychological and psychiatric information, drug and/or alcohol information, as well as information regarding Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and tests or treatment for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Disclosure for mental health records pertains to treatment, hospitalization, and/or outpatient care provided to me for the period listed above. I understand that my record may contain information regarding all aspects of my treatment and hospitalization, including psychological and psychiatric information, drug and/or alcohol information as well as information regarding Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and tests or treatment for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). **Authorizations for release of mental health records expire in 30 days.**

Disclosure of HIV related information is information about whether the patient has had a test for HIV, an HIV related illness or AIDS. HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus that may cause or indicate AIDS or HIV infection.

Disclosure of general information is information contained in an inmate's DC-15. Generally, any communications from the inmate to the Department of Corrections and responses thereto, misconducts, and grievances.

In authorizing this disclosure, I explicitly waive any and all rights I may have to the confidential maintenance of these records, including any such rights that exist under local, state, and federal statutory and/or constitutional law, rule or order, including those contained in the Pennsylvania Mental Health Procedures Act, 1976, the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act, 1972, and the Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act, No. 148.

I understand that I have no obligation to permit disclosure of any information from my record and that I may revoke this authorization, except to the extent that action has already been taken, at any time by notifying the Medical Records Technician, Health Care Administrator, or Facility Manager. In any event, this authorization will expire 90 days after the date signed, **with the exception of Mental Health records which have a 30 day expiration date, unless revoked prior to that time.**

I understand that these records are the property of the Department of Corrections and that my authorization for their release does not require the Department of Corrections to release these records. It is understood by the above requesting facility that if the requested information's confidentiality is protected by Federal Regulations that bar secondary dissemination or re-disclosure, the providing facility will provide a statement to that effect.

Furthermore, I will indemnify and hold harmless the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, and its employees and agents, for any losses, costs, damages, or expenses incurred because of releasing information in accordance with this authorization.

Employee/Inmate Signature

Employee ID/  
Inmate DC Number

Date

Signature of Witness